

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 DRC-01 /097 W
----- 124240

R 191946Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6831

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, CS

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION DEPUTIES BREAK QUORUM IN
PROTEST AGAINST ADMINISTRATION'S
ANTI-LA NACION BILL

REF: SAN JOSE 1493 AND A-52

1. THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WAS FORCED TO CANCEL ITS SPECIAL SESSION APRIL 18 BECAUSE A COALITION OF OPPOSITION DEPUTIES PURPOSELY BOYCOTTED THE SESSION, THEREBY BREAKING THE REQUIRED QUORUM OF 38. THE OPPOSITION DEPUTIES' MOVE WAS IN PROTEST AGAINST A FIGUERES ADMINISTRATION BILL, INTRODUCED THE PREVIOUS DAY IN SUBSTITUTION FOR A MORE INNOCUOUS ONE, THAT WOULD HAVE IMPOSED AN ADVERTISING SALES TAX AIMED SPECIFICALLY AGAINST THE VEHEMENTLY ANTI-FIGUERES DAILY LA NACION (REFERENCE SAN JOSE A-52). THE BOYCOTTERS VOWED TO CONTINUE THEIR WALKOUT, AND PARALYSIS OF THE ASSEMBLY, UNTIL THE FIGUERES GOVERNMENT WITHDREW THE ONEROUS BILL; A THREAT IF CARRIED OUT WOULD ALSO PREVENT ASSEMBLY DEBATE ON PRESIDENT FIGUERES'S PRIZED FAMILY SUBSIDY BILL, THE EXCHANGE REUNIFICATION BILL, AND THE GENERAL LAW OF EDUCATION. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE ADVERTISING TAX BILL WAS REPUDIATED EVEN BY SOME OF THE PLN DEPUTIES.

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2. THE OPPOSITION DEPUTIES' BOYCOTT, A RARE OCCURRENCE HERE,

IS A NEW MANIFESTATION OF A GROWING MOOD OF PROTEST AGAINST
THE EXCESSESS OF THE FIGUERES ADMINISTRATION. THE TEACHERS'
STRIKE, ANOTHER, CONTINUES DESPITE APPARENT ADMINISTRATION
AGREEMENT NOT TO PUSH FOR (BUT NEITHER TO WITHDRAW) THE
OFFENSIVE EDUCATION BILL (REFERENCE SAN JOSE 1493).

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ADVERTISING, LAW, LEGISLATORS, NEWSPAPERS, INFORMATION CONTROL, BOYCOTTS, LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANJO01532
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740092-0567
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740429/aaaaazjq.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SAN JOSE 1493 AND A-52
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 SEP 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <12-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPPOSITION DEPUTIES BREAK QUORUM IN PROTEST AGAINST ADMINISTRATION'S
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, CS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005